

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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A PAUSE TO REST GIVES A TANK DRIVER TIME  
TO READ HIS TESTAMENT

TRANSLATION

CATION

DISTRIBUTION



# The Book That Is Read Everywhere

**F**ROM the farthest-flung Army and Navy in our nation's history comes a constant stream of letters to the Bible House. Both chaplains and the men themselves are grateful for the Bibles and Testaments which the Society supplies. We pass on to RECORD readers just a few, indicating the area from which each comes:

## ***"From the bottom of my heart"***

Many of the men who are remaining here on the station, as well as many of those who are about to go to sea, are more than delighted in receiving these Testaments with the Air Corps insignia. Those who have asked for copies have not all been Protestant, but have included men of other faiths. Already the Navy has cooperated wonderfully, but such an organization as yours has definitely made the task of organizing a religious program much easier. The pulpit Bible is a very beautiful book, and has been more than useful in the reading of the Word each Sunday at our chapel services. Thanking you again from the bottom of my heart, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with your organization . . .

—Florida

## ***"In the moments of deadly seriousness"***

I am writing to acknowledge with gratitude the latest shipment of New Testaments that arrived yesterday. In my own name and that of my men and passengers I want to thank you for your generous spiritual alms. For your encouragement you should know that the New Testament is a pillar of strength to our fighting men in the moments of deadly seriousness.

—The South Pacific

## ***"We take advantage of every opportunity"***

I should like to thank you again for the pulpit Bible and Bibles you provided for the wardroom and crew's library of the U.S.S. *Yorktown*. You will be interested to know that I find an increasing demand for Bibles and New Testaments. We take advantage of every opportunity to furnish copies to the men who want them. Recently, I placed twenty New Testaments on the desk in sick bay, and asked one of the corps men to give them to the patients only when requested. Returning in two hours, I discovered that all the Testaments were gone, and the corps man asked for additional copies. Time and time again the men come in with: "Chaplain, can you give me a New Testament?" Thanks to the American Bible Society, we can.

—U.S.S. *Yorktown*

## ***"Already they are gone"***

The Navy Testaments were received at Little Creek before I left that base, and I wrote at once acknowledging the fact. Several days ago I saw the chaplain who is now there, and he said that already they are gone! So you can see that they were much appreciated. Indeed, without the help and sacrifice of organizations such as yours, the re-

ligious life of the men as well as the effectiveness of chaplains would be seriously handicapped.

—Little Creek, Virginia

## ***"I hope you will not think I am extravagant"***

We find it a difficult matter to keep an adequate supply of New Testaments on hand for our new men coming in, so great is the demand for them. This is an infantry replacement center, and the cycle of training in this battalion extends only over a few weeks' period. With the arrival of the men in each cycle we are faced with the same demand for Testaments, and so it is a pleasure to know that I will be able to secure them from you.

I hope you won't think I am extravagant in my requests, but I am really in need of the New Testaments, and will need many more of them in days to come. . . . I have the feeling that, when this war is over, we will have more people, especially men, who know something about the New Testament than we ever had before at any time in this country.

—South Carolina

## ***"A seed planted in the spring"***

I have reason to believe that all our men sincerely appreciate these gift Bibles. That they cherish them is evident, because they are not seen in waste cans. No one will actually know the extent of their usage; but the fact that the men keep them in their possession signifies a reverence which we must recognize as a seed planted in the spring, ready to burst forth at any moment.

—Cuba

## ***"Twenty Bibles in every library"***

The 500 copies of the New Testament have been received, and will soon be all gone. A thousand more, if they are available, could be used. The demand, I confess, is surprising and, of course, gratifying.

The Chaplains' Office is securing about 500 books from the Victory Book Campaign for each battalion that leaves here for foreign duty. We would like to include in that small library a number of copies of the complete Bible. If you could send us 400 Bibles, we would then be able to include about twenty Bibles in the library of every battalion that will leave here within the next few months.

—Rhode Island

## ***"A complete Bible for my meditations"***

The purpose of my writing to you is to thank you personally for the Bible which is now mine to enjoy; and through using, prosper greatly. I am very glad to be able to have the complete Bible for my meditations.

I am now serving in our European theater of operations, and since I have been in this country (England), I have been using my copy of the "New Testament and Psalms" which my Sunday-school class presented me at home. Yesterday, while I was in the office of our chaplain, I

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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

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## The Supply Line of Faith

TOGETHER with hundreds of other "essential industries" in the country, the American Bible Society is called upon during this year to do the greatest volume of business in its long history of one hundred and twenty-seven years. Expressed in dollars, the Society must in the twelve months begun July 1, 1943, secure from living donors—individuals, churches, auxiliaries—more than four times their gifts of 1938, and nearly twice those of 1942. It must secure \$1,084,000, of which \$388,000 is for the regular budget, and \$696,000 is for the expanding challenges of the War Emergency Fund.

It is to a consideration of this latter fund that we devote this page. The word "emergency" may be read as referring not only to the tragic and pressing needs for Scriptures created by the war, but also to the urgency that this unprecedented sum be secured from friends of the Bible in our land. It is unprecedented, and it would be a tragedy if it were not fully subscribed. The amounts asked for in the preceding three years were respectively \$150,000, \$165,000, and \$306,200—and *no one of them was fully raised*. Reduced to the simplest terms of individual responsibility, each friend of the Society, each church, each denomination, each auxiliary, besides maintaining the level of giving to the Society's regular work, must treble the giving of last year to the War Emergency Fund. In the case of gifts from individuals, even such a level of giving will not be greater than the British people have been maintaining in the support of their Bible Society *even during the past four years of war*.

Why must the war emergency requirements expand so greatly? Because the Bible is the book of faith on which rests freedom. Soldiers, sailors, prisoners of war, refugees, need the Bible, but, for the most part, cannot get it unless American Christians do their part. In normal times our part would not be so great; for the other international Bible Societies and the national societies of many European nations could then carry their customary share. But these societies are now, many of them, closed down; and even the great British Society is operating on a paper

ration of thirty-seven and one half percent of its normal amount, and is otherwise handicapped.

In the face of these circumstances, the American Bible Society not only must (1) continue its work for our own nation's fighting men which continues to bring orders from chaplains averaging 25,000 volumes a week; (2) must maintain its work for prisoners of war, to which is now being added the calls from the camps in this country where those captured from the armies of our enemies are detained; (3) must continue its publication program in Switzerland for the destitute peoples of Italy, Poland, France, Belgium, Hungary, Yugoslavia; (4) must continue to publish African Scriptures for the British Society; but to these continuing responsibilities must now be added the advance publication of Scriptures for shipment to churches and Bible Societies in those countries in which their publication has been stopped or seriously restricted by the war. Just as the United Nations governments, and our own in particular, are preparing food and medical supplies for the succor of millions of impoverished people, immediately the stricken lands are set free, so the Christians of America must prepare at once to aid their fellow Christians in Europe and the Far East to bring back the life of their churches to their fullest strength in the shortest possible time. For this the Scriptures will be essential. It would be tragic to postpone the production of these books—which it will take many months to publish—until the day of armistice. It must be begun now. We must stock the Scriptures for the supply line over which the Word of faith and hope may move swiftly as soon as the sea lanes are open. It will be a huge task, involving shipments to Norway, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Burma, Malaysia, Korea, China, and possibly Denmark, Germany, and other countries. Within the first six armistice months, it is estimated that not less than 600,000 Bibles (the American Bible Society distributed last year in its regular work 359,997 Bibles) and 1,200,000 New Testaments will be needed. These books will cost in excess of \$850,000.



The Society's Board of Managers is carefully and prayerfully making its plans to carry out this great

"Emergency Fund."

# Christopher Saur—One Man Bible Society

*Commemorating the bicentennial of a notable achievement in the story  
of the Bible in North America*

by Margaret T. Hills

**A** GERMAN Bible, the first in a European language printed in North America? Even before an English Bible? Indeed, that is so. Of course, the first Bible printed in all of America was that for the Indians in Massachusetts, in 1663; but that is another story.

It was the last day of August 1743 when, in the shop of Christopher Saur in Germantown, Pennsylvania,—just two hundred years ago,—the last sheets of a German Bible came from the press, the culmination of three years of pioneering work.

The printer and publisher, Christopher Saur, was a pious, energetic, and ingenious young man, who came from Germany in 1724, with his wife and small son. After graduating from the University of Marburg, he had studied medicine at Halle. In Germantown he led a busy life as physician, apothecary, optician, glazier, woodturner, and clockmaker. Although not attached to any organized religious group, he was a deeply religious man. The lack of spiritual reading matter among the German community in Pennsylvania and Virginia moved him so, that he wrote several people in Germany for supplies of such books, and then set up a press to try to do something about it here. Paper, type, ink, and labor were expensive and scarce. His first press he built himself. In 1738 he started a series of very popular German almanacs, containing "various needful and edifying theological things, and also household remedies." The next year he began a religious newspaper, the first in the United States, which at one time had a circulation of 10,000 copies. In 1739 he also printed a German hymnal of some 800 pages for the Seventh-day Brethren at Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Then he began to think of printing a Bible. He had already been selling and giving away Bibles, Testaments, and other religious books sent him from Germany—a sort of one-man Bible Society. But the printing of a complete Bible in good type was an enterprise not to be rushed into. In his almanac and

newspaper he asked for subscriptions for a Bible, so that he could form some idea of how many copies were needed, and to help cover the purchase of paper and type. He wanted it to be sold at a price "so low, that the parsimonious and avaricious may have no



*A Christopher Saur Bible*

excuse; and those of lesser means, no burden." A new font of type was contributed by Dr. Heinrich Ehrenfried Luther, head of a famous type foundry at Frankfurt-am-Main. The press seems to have been secured from another printer, who lacked Saur's ability to get things done. The paper had been requested from a religious organization in England; but he may have used American paper. The ink he made himself from a formula of his own devising. The text followed was that of one of the Luther editions printed at Halle. Saur's first edition consisted of 1,200 copies. The fat, square volume is usually bound in stout, brown calfskin over oak boards, sometimes with a little simple tooling. The



title page is strikingly printed in red and black, and charming cherubs appear at the end of the Old Testament and of the New. The volumes were sold at eighteen shillings, which is about \$2.50; but,—announced Christopher Saur,—“to the poor and needy we have no price.” In his preface Saur says the book contains no notes or explanations, because, “firstly, . . . by means of Scripture parallelisms, one phrase frequently illuminates another in the spiritual sense; secondly, because it is certain that to him who reads the Scriptures with an upright heart, the Holy Spirit in the heart reveals his true meaning by the reading itself; and according as every believer himself undergoes such an experience in himself, individually, so one believes assuredly that the time nears when the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord (Isa. 11: 9), and there shall be no need that brother teach brother and admonish him to know the Lord (Jer. 31: 34) . . .”

To friends of the American Bible Society it is interesting that the first Bibles printed in this country were not profitmaking books, but what we now call missionary editions, and also were without “note or comment.”

A fascinating sidelight on the Saur Bible is that twelve copies were sent to the Dr. Luther in Frankfurt who had supplied the type. The ship on which they were sent was attacked by pirates off the coast of France, and the cargo sold at auction. Two years later, the Bibles were redeemed by Dr. Luther and presented by him to various European libraries.

In 1745 Saur began a series of German New

Testaments, which continued to appear until 1775.

After setting up a papermill of his own and a foundry for making cast-iron stoves, in addition to his other activities, the older Christopher died in 1758. His son Christopher carried on the press, and in 1763 printed 2,000 more German Bibles, this on paper made at Williamsburg, Virginia.

A third edition, printed from type cast in Saur's newly established type foundry, was printed in 1776. Only a part of this edition was bound and sold before the American Revolution reached Germantown. Saur, an elder of the Church of the Brethren, opposed war, and was held a loyalist by his fellow-townsmen. As he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania in 1778, his goods were confiscated and sold at auction, including many unbound copies of this last edition. These, bound, were still on sale in Philadelphia early in the nineteenth century. The fascinating story that these unbound sheets were used as litter for horses or gun wadding by either the British or Continental troops during and after the battle of Germantown, seems to be unfounded.

Now, two hundred years later, the American Bible Society is printing thousands of German Bibles, many of which may be returned to Germany to help supply the postwar need there; all because the time still seems far off when, as the elder Saur quoted in his preface, “the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, and there shall be no need that brother teach brother and admonish him to know the Lord.”

. . .

## The Geneva Office Carries On

**A**MONG the many activities administered by Secretary Olivier Béguin for the Society's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, some other phases of which are dwelt upon elsewhere in these pages, is the continuous distribution of Scriptures among the millions of men who languish behind the barbed wire of prison camps in Germany, Italy, and elsewhere on the Continent. In a letter recently received, Secretary Béguin reports that in the first five months of 1943 there were distributed to these men 3,693 Bibles, 6,879 Testaments, and 841 Gospel portions and Psalms, a total of 11,413 books. They were in twenty-five different languages.

Mr. Béguin's report also included copies of many letters received from these prisoners, from a few of which we quote here. The letters were all written in the spring of 1943.

A chaplain, himself a prisoner in Italy, writes:—

As senior chaplain of this camp, I would like to thank you for the services you have rendered also to this camp,

by sending the much-needed books and Bibles, which we have received from time to time. We thank you also in advance for what we may still receive from you. If I may, if it is possible, I would like to ask you for the following: (a) Afrikaans Bibles, as many as you can, for the demand is great, and urgent; (b) for me, personally, any such books, the latest preferably on the psychology of religion and psychiatry, as you may be able to get in the German and French languages, as I can read both, as I also can read Dutch.

A prisoner whose location and nationality are not revealed writes:—

*Dear Sir:* I have in my possession a religious book, the title being “Unto us a Child is born,” in which you very kindly offer us opportunity of having a Bible. Could you then forward me a Bible and such literature as would help me in civil life? The reason for my request is because my experiences in the last three or four years have compelled



me to look at religion in a very different light to previous years.

A French prisoner writes:—

I have received with great pleasure your book "Jesus of Nazareth." Thank you for the spiritual aid which it brings me. Would you be able to get me an evangelistic Bible and some books? I am completely out of all that; it would aid me much in supporting my captivity.

A French chaplain writes with fine phrasing and discernment of the priceless value of the gospel:—

Sir: I am happy to be able through this letter to thank you for the shipment of books, Bibles, and New Testaments. With the aid of God, I have organized a Protestant service in this Stalag. At the right hour, every Sunday, we meet with some comrades of the camp to worship together—a service which is precious to us. Little by little, I can enter into contact with isolated comrades in the work detachments. In spite of our great dispersion and isolation, we feel how very precious the line which unites us to Jesus. We would not wish, in this camp, in this little imprisoned community, to let it go. The test which we are enduring must stimulate us, so that we can walk more firmly in the future in the feeling of true fraternity of Christ—feeling of justice and of love which the gospel of Christ alone can give us. In spite of the length of the trial of captivity, our hope remains strong, since we have the certainty that God hears our prayers, if we surrender ourselves to him. In ending, I would, in the name of my comrades and myself, thank you for the considerable effort which you make for us. No one of us is insensible of all the sacrifices made for our cause.

Frequent references to the presence of ministerial students in the camps mark the letters from prisoners. One man writes:—

I wish I could convey to you what the books and Bibles

have meant to the chaplains and the men who were studying for the ministry, and those who are on working parties and are taking services . . . All our church activities are very encouraging.

And another:—

Very many thanks for the Afrikaans Bibles and English New Testaments and Bibles which have recently arrived here. They are a great help. English Bibles are still especially needed. I have ten ordination candidates studying here with me. Theological books and commentaries would be welcome.

No single item in the Society's greatly expanded War Emergency program for this year is more important than its work for prisoners of war in Europe. No other Christian agency has the privilege of regularly supplying the Scriptures to these men whose lengthening terms under soul-destroying conditions make each added day's burdens the harder to bear.



Secretary Olivier Béguin in his office at Geneva

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(Continued from inside front cover)

noticed that he had several copies of the Bible offered by your Society. I asked if I might have one; naturally he gave me one, thus pleasing me sincerely. —England

### **"He repeated under his breath the 23rd Psalm"**

Now and then we see little things that remind us of the great place of Scripture in the life of the men. The other Sunday I had a service for prisoners; one of them I noticed was gazing away into space while he repeated under his breath the twenty-third Psalm with me as I read.

—Washington State

### **"Only a small token"**

The Easter season was fittingly observed by my "seabees" on these beautiful islands. At the early morning and the regular services offerings were received for the work the American Bible Society is carrying on so effectively among the armed forces. The total amount came to \$76, and a money order is enclosed. This is only a small token of appreciation for what the Lord has done through you.

—"These beautiful islands"

### **"Happy to be a part of it"**

I have this day received five hundred New Testaments. I am indeed glad to get them . . . We were down to rock bottom on New Testaments and religious literature, not being able to fill the last two calls from ships that applied to me. The twenty-five Bibles in blue, stamped in gold "U. S. NAVY," have also been received. We have presented four commissionings of the smaller craft with these Bibles, and they are received with much pleasure and appreciation by all commanding officers. I think this is a fine thing, and I am happy to be a part of it.

—Philadelphia

### **"Chaplain, I've read through my Testament"**

"Chaplain, I've read through my little Navy Testament—have you a whole Bible?" The person making such a request was a young Naval officer, from the South, whom I met on a recent tour of an outlying station. Similar requests have come, and to each one I had to reply, "I can help you with a New Testament. Bibles are on the way from the States, and, when they arrive, you shall have one!"

—North Africa



# Meet the "Bibleman"

by Lester Sumrall

THE scene was at the crossroads of the New World: the Panama Canal Zone. What Palestine is to Asia and Africa, the Isthmus of Panama is to the Western World: a superhighway of the nations. Though its geographic position as the connecting link between the two Americas makes it a charming paradisaical garden, possibly no place on earth, in proportion to its size, has witnessed more foul politics, barbarism and savagery, blood and tears, than Panama. From the time Columbus discovered it until this day, it has been a tender spot among the aggressive nations.



Mr. and Mrs. Gregory

The Isthmus of Panama is the site of the greatest engineering feat on the globe—uniting the mighty waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific by an artificial waterway. The estimated cost was \$375,000,000, plus unnumbered precious human lives which defy evaluation. Man with his herculean machines excavated 232,000,000 cubic yards of earth, with the assistance of 20,000,000 pounds of dynamite. It is said that, if the world had a twelve foot square hole through its center, the soil removed for the cut to accommodate the Panama Canal would fill the hole.

## *I meet the "Bibleman"*

In the lovely city of Cristobal (Cristobal is Spanish for Christopher; and Colon, another Panamanian

city, is Spanish for Columbus), at the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal, I was visiting the beautiful cream-colored, three-story stucco building named Bible House. It is the Caribbean headquarters of the American Bible Society. In the private office of Mr. Gregory, Secretary of the American Bible Society, I obtained first-hand information about Bible distribution through the Caribbean Agency. The district covers 1,049,211 square miles. It consists of the five Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, as well as the Republic of Panama and the Canal Zone, Colombia and Venezuela (two of the northern countries of South America), with the Caribbean islands that compose the Dutch West Indies. Mr. Gregory's depository lists Bibles in fifteen languages to serve this vast and diversified territory.

## *Mr. Gregory is a "Dutchman"*

The "Bibleman" possesses a grand religious heritage, which has deeply influenced his spiritual ideals and his way of working. His forefathers came to America two hundred and fifty years ago. I feel that they can aptly be called the "European Pilgrim Fathers." In the Rhineland district they suffered indescribable indignities from a cruel, ruthless, and bigoted religion and state. Unwilling to endure the intolerance longer, they emigrated to the New World. The now familiar story is that they settled in eastern Pennsylvania—the people in that region still being known to the world as Pennsylvania Dutch (which means German). Mr. Gregory is short of stature, heavily built, slightly bald. He possesses a round, open face, that radiates good will to all. A broad, unassuming smile continually envelops his ruddy countenance as he speaks to you.

## *Ambitions for the Bar*

During his early school days, Mr. Gregory had aspirations of becoming an attorney at law. His greatest ambition was to defend the weak at the bar of justice. He attended Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and, after certain God-ordained influences had changed his aspirations, he entered Yale Divinity School. In these academic institutions he earned the degrees of bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity.

Some of the pivotal points in molding Mr. Gregory's life for God and the work that lay before him are of interest. In 1903 he heard Bishop McDowell speak of the stupendous needs of modern missions. The discourse was so passionate and convincing, that



his soul was moved to the point where he offered himself as a missionary. While attending the Haystack Centennial at Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1906, he listened to Dr. Harlan P. Beach make an appeal for missions, and again he was moved to dedicate his life to the work of God in foreign lands.

After conference with his Reformed Church mission board, it was decided that he should go to Kansas to engage in home missionary activity as a preparatory training. There he remained for three and a half years. During all this time he was interested in going to China. Therefore, when he heard that a medical missionary from that country was to speak in Lawrence, Kansas, he took along a group of seventeen high-school boys and went to hear the missionary. The sermon he heard that day affected him more than had any of the others—he was convinced that the divine urge which kept “bobbing up” had to be dealt with firmly and without delay.

He immediately wrote to his board in Philadelphia for a missionary appointment. As the board did not give him a favorable reply, he applied to the Presbyterian mission board, and within a month had received an appointment. The Presbyterian friends wished to send him to Mexico first, and to Mexico he went, as Mr. Gregory smilingly comments, “just in time for the revolution.” A few years later he was given an appointment to Panama, where he labored in the Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. camps.

By what now would be recognized as divine providence, he met on his first Sunday in Panama Rev. W. F. Jordan, Secretary of the American Bible Society. Mr. Jordan immediately felt that Mr. Gregory was God’s man to succeed him in the Bible Society work. Although Mr. Gregory had no feeling or guidance in the matter, he was open to the leading of the Lord; and as Mr. Jordan continued to insist that Mr. Gregory join him, he finally consented. Later Mr. Jordan went to the States, leaving Mr. Gregory in charge—and that was more than twenty-two years ago. It is in this manner that the “Bibleman” has been led by the unfailing hand of God. “The picture is almost finished now,” he says as his eyes sparkle with delight.

#### *Ambassador of good will*

Beyond contradiction Mr. Gregory is the best-known Christian leader between the Rio Grande and the Panama Canal. While traveling through Central America, dozens of persons asked me if I knew Mr. Gregory. After hearing missionaries in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica speak of him, I was determined to get acquainted with the man who could aptly be termed the “Will Rogers” of Latin American Christianity—a prince of wit and an ambassador of good will. Mr. Gregory is all that, besides being a man with a powerful message from the Word of God.

The “Bibleman” is respected by all as being non-sectarian and interdenominational both in his thoughts and activities. I have heard the missionaries of most denominations laboring in Central America and northern South America speak of his splendid cooperation with all missionary groups in preaching for them in their chapels and in providing literature. Of course, this attitude of his blends beautifully with the policy of the American Bible Society, whose charter states that the only Bibles they will distribute are those of recognized versions, without note or comment.



*The Cristobal Bible House*

#### *Interviewing the “Bibleman”*

As Mr. Gregory has vital and constant contact with missions and missionaries, I asked him some questions.

“Mr. Gregory,” I began, “in this vast field covered by your Caribbean Agency, how many channels for Bible distribution do you have?”

He replied, “Our Agency was opened in 1892, and has been in operation ever since. Over this long period, we have made several hundred contacts, which have become outlets for the distribution of our Scriptures. We are happy to say that our missionary friends make much of our distribution possible by their kind cooperation. For this we are grateful.”

“That is an enormous business, and must require a great deal of bookkeeping,” I commented. This question brought out information about Mrs. Gregory, who does much of the bookkeeping work, acting as her husband’s private secretary. She is a wonderful helpmate both in the Bible House and in entertaining travelers in their home. While I was there, she was acting also as hostess in a large Army recreation center. The boys come to her just to chat or to lay before her their problems. I am certain that she is of great assistance to many a mother’s boy away from home.

“How are Bible sales in these terrible war days? Has there been a noticeable decrease in demands for Bibles?” I inquired.

“Just the opposite has been true,” said Mr. Gregory. “Latin America is appealing for more Bibles than we can supply under existing conditions.



The doors of distribution are open, and the people's hearts are receptive, but we can't get enough Bibles, New Testaments, and portions to supply these ever-increasing demands."

"Surely, that is a sad condition. What do you consider the greatest hindrance to receiving these Bibles?" I ventured.

"Well, an outstanding hindrance is the lack of transportation facilities, caused by the war. Our Bible House has eight shipments tied up somewhere—which accounts for our present stock being almost exhausted. I have here an order received from an Army chaplain for five hundred Testaments for his soldiers, but it is impossible to fill the order."

#### *The textbook of democracy*

"Are there other hindrances to the supply of Bibles to this needy field?" I queried.

"Yes," replied Mr. Gregory, "possibly the chief is budgetary limitation, which constantly stares us in the face. The reason for this is the lack of systematic giving to the Bible Society by Christians in the homeland. I say very kindly that, if our American Christians had given to Bible propagation in proportion to what British Christians have given, we could have done much more than has been accomplished. It seems to me that the people at home do not realize that the Bible is the *real textbook of democracy*. Unconsciously enjoying the freedom of a Bible-guided land, they possibly do not realize that fact. But the Bible is the wagon track in which civilization walks. Since Latin America has not yet had the Bible on the scale that we have had it in the States, we cannot expect them to enjoy the same degree of freedom. However, we have great hopes for a more promising future, anticipating that, as a country opens its doors to the great Book, we will progressively occupy it with Bibles and missionaries."

"Shall we turn to another thought now?" I suggested. "Which was your banner year of distri-

bution of Bibles in the Caribbean Agency?"

Mr. Gregory looked through his files and replied, "Here we have it. Our red-letter year for Bible distribution was 1939, the year the war began in Europe. In that year we distributed 156,839 Bibles, Testaments, and portions. However, I am delighted to add that our second best year was 1941, and that 1942 fell off from the year before by only 558 copies! In view of international troubles, we surely thank God for these good years."

"I am certain that all Christians will rejoice with you over that splendid record. Now for a final question—What future do you personally see for evangelical Christianity in Latin America?"

"To be candid," said Mr. Gregory, "missions in Latin America as a whole are still in the primary stage. The Church of Rome still holds the social leaders, the rich people, the political people. You will notice that I do not include the intellectual people. Intellectualism is at variance with the church. Our work in general is still among the laboring class. But we do have a bright future. Our hope is in educating our Protestant children with the Bible, so that they will grow up to demand a place of respect and position in Latin American society."

May I conclude this little recital of a most stimulating interview by saying that I am proud to be a member of the American Bible Society. I felt highly honored not long ago to receive a letter informing me that I had been accepted as a life director of the Society. This work is both noble and eternal. I have met a number of Latin American Christians who were converted solely by reading the *wonderful words of life*.

Would you like to invest in the salvation of the souls of men? If so, why not become a member of the American Bible Society? For five dollars you can be a member for a year. You may address your correspondence to the American Bible Society, Park Avenue and Fifty-seventh Street, New York 22, N. Y.

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## Unabated Demand

SINCE early in 1940 the American Bible Society has distributed 3,375,673 volumes of Scripture for the men in the nation's services. Of these, 48,823 were whole Bibles, including more than 1,600 lectern Bibles for the chapels in the Army camps. The total also includes 660,707 Gospel portions; but the great bulk of the distribution is in New Testaments, specially prepared and bound for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, WACS, WAVES, and Merchant Marines. In addition to the complete text of the King James New Testament, these little pocket volumes contain certain of the Psalms, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer,

the National Anthem, other hymns and prayers, and two pages entitled "Where to Look" giving guidance to certain passages in the volume appropriate to be read when decisions must be made or critical situations faced. As of August 1, 2,666,143 of these specially prepared New Testaments had been sent out from the Bible House—1,724,480 as free grants to chaplains, and 941,663 by sale at cost to civilians for presentation to the men and women. The service Testaments sell for 20 cents postpaid. If desired, the name of the recipient will be stamped in gold letters on the cover for an additional 25 cents.



# Why Read Isaiah?

by Gilbert Darlington

**T**HE American Bible Society is suggesting that the churches make a special study of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah as a preparation for the celebration of Universal Bible Sunday on December 12. The great prophet has much to say to times like ours.

In Isaiah we find the A B C of militarism—(Assyria, —Babylonia,—Cyrus). Today we are experiencing the G H I J of militarism—(Germany,—Hitler,—Italy,—Japan). Read Isaiah's vivid description of the power and perfection of the Assyrian Army (5: 26-30). Immediately following this, he describes his vision and call in the Temple. Is there not a definite connection between them?

In Isaiah we find, even in wartime, a considerable enjoyment by the prophet of the four freedoms. There are also many clean-cut passages prophesying the coming of freedom from fear (41: 1-16; 43: 1-5); freedom from want (41: 17-20; 35: 1-10); and freedom from oppression (58: 6-12; 11: 1-9; 14: 3-28).

Scholars have called Isaiah the most brilliant and splendid book in all Jewish literature. Its prophecies of the Branch, of the Prince of Peace, of Emmanuel, and of the Suffering Servant, are of preeminent interest to all who study the four Gospels. There are more quotations from Isaiah in the New Testament than from almost all the other Old Testament prophets combined. One scholar has tried to express this by saying that in the New Testament we breathe the terminology and the imagery of Isaiah. Study how our Lord fulfilled the following six outstanding passages:

	Matthew	Mark
Isa. 5: 1-7	21: 33-46	12: 1, 12
6: 9, 10	13: 13-15	4: 11, 12
		8: 18
29: 13	15: 7-9	7: 6, 7
40: 3-5	3: 3	1: 2, 3
42: 1-4	12: 17-21	
61: 1, 2		

Jesus told his disciples that many prophets and kings desired to know the things that he told to them, but knew them not (Matt. 13: 16, 17; Luke 10: 23, 24). Because he had fulfilled the law and the prophets, Jesus says he that is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist or the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. Study Matt. 11: 9-11; Luke 7: 26-28. As followers of Jesus Christ, are we worthy of such a sublime inheritance? Study the great passages of Isaiah and see.

## ISAIAH 40

53

ceived of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9 ¶ O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock

like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

12 ¶ Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counselor hath taught him?

14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

18 ¶ To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

A sample page from the two-cent portion now available.

Luke	John	Acts
20: 9-19		
8: 10	9: 39	28: 26, 27
	12: 39, 40	
3: 4-6	1: 23	
4: 17-21		

It was Isaiah who said of God's Holy Word—  
Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read (34: 16).  
The word of our God shall stand forever (40: 8).  
My word . . . shall not return unto me void (55: 11).

We have much to learn from the tragic experiences of Isaiah's time. To aid in the study of this much neglected book, the American Bible Society has just published 200,000 copies, in easily read type, for 2 cents each. This is the largest edition of Isaiah that has ever been printed. Get your copy now.





*The girls of the 1943 graduating class at Chemawa*

## The Bible at Chemawa Indian School

*What would America be like, if all scholars in the nation's elementary schools were thoroughly trained in the Bible, as are these original Americans?*

by Margaret J. Harris

ONE Sunday morning in May, in our church service at Chemawa, we centered our worship around the theme "Expecting Great Things from God." As our memories swept back over the experiences of the past six months, we saw so many achievements God had made possible, that we knew we had every reason to enlarge our faith, and to expect even greater blessings in the future.

Chemawa, the oldest nonreservation boarding school in America, is located near Salem, Oregon. The United States Government, in providing for the school program, has set apart two buildings—one to be used by the Roman Catholics, and one for the Protestant religious program. The Home Missions Council of North America provides a director of religious education and supplies with which to conduct the Protestant work. The four hundred students enrolled in 1942-43 represented sixty different tribes, and were from many western states and Alaska. They ranged in age from five to twenty, half of them being Protestant. In the course of the year, about two hundred Protestant students voluntarily attended the services on Sunday mornings. Out of that group more than seventy accepted Christ as their Saviour, and fifty requested baptism.

The use of the Bible at Chemawa has had much to do with the growth and the new sense of security of

these promising Indian Christians. Supplies provided through the American Bible Society have enabled us to have a pulpit Bible, which has been read in every service of worship; a marked reverence and respect for God's authority has resulted. We read responsively from the Psalter each Sunday—it is always impressive to hear our Indian students read



*Althea Racehorse stops to read the Bible in the dormitory reading room*



the Word of God in unison, with their characteristic dignity and poise.

Our twenty-eight preparatory members received copies of the New Testament from the campus church which they hope to join; and the active and associate members received Bibles; while all the students in the Bible Classes own copies of "Gems from the Bible" and suitable books of prayers. It has been encouraging to note how faithfully they have brought their Bibles to church, and followed the Scripture reading in their own copies. A number of vesper club discussions, led by our high-school students, have sent us to the Bible for answers to our questions. Frequently, on Sunday evenings, every student in the informal circle has had a Bible open before him as he has turned to consult the highest authority we can know—the great Shepherd Chief, who has spoken to us so clearly the words of life.

It was a thrilling experience to be able to present to each Protestant student in the 1943 Chemawa graduating class a copy of the Scriptures, gift-wrapped in white with a fresh rose caught through the silver ribbon of each. These Bibles for the girls and pocket Testaments for the boys were gifts of the Chemawa campus church—a church in whose beginnings all of these graduates have had some part, and a living, ongoing part of the great Church of Christ.

An estimate of the value our students ascribe to the Bible, was shown in the way they contributed in freewill offerings to the Emergency Fund of the American Bible Society, which provided Testaments for service men. They gave eleven dollars in church offerings to this worthy cause, and then prayed repeatedly for a great blessing to come to the readers of their gift Testaments whenever they used them.

One Sunday morning the theme of our service was the promise of Isaiah 41: 10: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." After the verse became more meaningful, we often used it as a call to worship, personalizing the promise by making it say, "Fear thou not, Chemawa student; for I am with thee . . . ." At Easter, a picture of Jesus was mounted on a card 9 x 12 inches in size, on which was printed in our own school shop this verse, with each child's name typed in after the words "Fear thou not." These pictures are treasured by the students, who have hung them conspicuously in their dormitory rooms as a reminder of their ever-present, loving God.

In each of the dormitories where the small boys and girls live, we have a copy of the New Testament and Psalms, printed in primer type, in the reading rooms where the children are at liberty to read them. The matrons report that the students use them frequently. At free times, they stand beside the table and read a few verses of Scripture.



*The Bible is the center of Christmas worship at Chemawa*

Our program has included a story hour for the small boys and girls in their dormitories at bedtime, one evening each week and also on Sunday afternoons. We have had a Bible story every Sunday afternoon; and it has been a real joy to note the interest our students have shown in them. Often requests have been made for more Bible stories on the week nights too.

Indian boys and girls have a natural understanding of the customs and life of the Hebrew people, since their families have lived close to nature, often in tents. They have an unusual fondness for stories, and the ability to utilize the teachings in a literal way. The inner restraints and self-discipline which result from knowing and admiring the great leaders of the Bible as they are described in biographical accounts, is one of the encouraging results we observe from the privilege of familiarizing the students with this the greatest of all books. We look forward hopefully to the day when this opportunity may be provided in all the schools of America.

We cannot estimate the power of God's Word, nor can we know the far-reaching influence of these lives which are enriched through willing contact with the greatest source of truth. We can, however, rejoice in the opportunity we have in America to acquaint our boys and girls with the Bible; and from our experience in Chemawa we commend its use wherever a well-rounded program of education and character development is promoted.



# Bibles in Camp Chapel Pews

*An administrative chaplain appraises the Society's work and makes a suggestion*

**I** HAVE just returned from an inspection trip among the Protestant chaplains at camp. Everywhere I went, I found evidences of the good work the Society has been doing. The posters were up in nearly every chapel, and frequently were found on the bulletin boards. All chaplains testified to their worth as demonstrating, by constant reminder, that one of the functions of the chaplains is the distribution of the Scriptures.

"The method of distribution is largely personal, man to man. The chaplain takes time to interest the man in some plan of reading, acquaints him with the "Where to Look" help at the back of the book, and the inserted New Testament Reading Record. There is ample evidence that the Bible is read as well as distributed. One man showed me a well-used but still serviceable copy, which he had been carrying and using daily for over a year.

"I found also that there was interest in whole

Bibles, especially for the pews in the chapels. Perhaps, this is a service the Society could expand, although I realize the great drain upon your budget. I have been studying your catalogue, however, and find that a hundred Bibles could be placed in each chapel for \$40. Perhaps enough churches and individuals could be interested to make this possible for as many chaplains as would use them. Then, the Negro troops seem to want whole Bibles, and the supply to them alone would be a tremendous boon to the morale and the spiritual life of these splendid American soldiers.

"But I began to thank you for all that you are doing for our men; I am seeing the service of the Society in its wider aspect; not from the viewpoint merely of an individual chaplain, but as the Testaments affect the life of an entire unit. May God continue to bless you all in these days when we in khaki are turning to the Word in increasing numbers."

• • •

## The Book of All Nations

**P**ERHAPS the highest moment in the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society held in Kingsway Hall, London, on May 5, 1943, was when the congregation sang a new hymn just received from Dr. Elvet Lewis, well-known hymn writer in both English and Welsh. Dr. Lewis was for many years a vice president of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The hymn adorns a theme that is very near to his heart. We are happy in the permission to reproduce it here.

### THE BOOK OF ALL NATIONS

Word of God,—the grand unveiling  
Of his glory and his grace;  
When the lamps of earth are failing,  
Here is light for all our race.

Word of truth—through all Time's changes  
Its glad messages abide;  
Homeward, past earth's cloudy ranges,  
Still our footsteps it will guide.

Word of wisdom for the erring;  
For the weary, word of strength;  
Sure and steadfast hope conferring  
Daily all the journey's length.

Thy good news to every nation  
It its own tongue now declare,—  
Till the Author of salvation  
Find his homeland everywhere.

Word triumphant!—spread thy pinions,  
Take from land to land thy flight,  
Till the earth's distraught dominions  
In the love of God unite.

## A Glimpse of Battleship Life

**T**O Treasurer Darlington comes a cheery letter from his personal friend, Chaplain James V. Claypool, who serves on one of the nation's newest and mightiest battleships. He writes:

Dear "Padre":—

Since we last met,—and we all remember with pleasure the day when you and Admiral Belknap came aboard,—my stock of Bibles has been depleted twice; and I've less than a hundred Testaments for this large crew to start out on any possible extended cruise. I am sure that 300 Testaments and 50 whole Scriptures is the minimum we will need. Is it too much for me to ask of you?

The whole Bibles are used chiefly by a group which has been studying the life of Joseph and of Moses with me on Sunday nights. They also meet every evening together in a messing compartment for an hour's Bible study and prayer. Of the approximate number of sixty, between fifteen and twenty are able to be present at each session, and the personnel shifts as transfers come and go.





# Editorial Comment



## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary, Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22



Vol. 88 OCTOBER 1943 No. 8

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

EVERY year the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD is glad to give notice of the praiseworthy program of the Bible Mastery Campaign promoted by the Presbytery of Seattle, Washington. October is each year Bible Mastery Month. The program is a simple one. It calls for the reading by all participants of the same book of the Bible every day for the thirty-one days. This year it is the Book of Colossians.

Last year the movement reached twenty denominations in over forty states and provinces. One church reported 12,000 chapters read; a Bible was awarded a lady who read the book two hundred and five times. Two hundred and sixty-seven inmates of the San Quentin prison signed to read. Many church groups throughout the country adopted the program as a whole. Information—a four-page leaflet, committal forms—may be secured by sending an addressed, stamped envelope to C. J. Boppell, 2666 37th Avenue, S.W., Seattle 6, Washington.

THE churches in the West Indies Agency are, in spite of war conditions, increasing their generous

support of the Society's work. The contributions for 1942 were as follows: Cuba, \$671.15; Puerto Rico, \$484.70; Dominican Republic, \$252.83; Virgin Islands, \$41.75; making a total of \$1,450.43. Corresponding gifts for 1941 were \$1,109.95; and for 1940, \$653.95. Hearty thanks to these loyal friends.

THIS number of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD, like almost all, carries on the back cover an advertisement of the Society's annuity program. It is appropriate to state here that the fall of 1943 marks the centennial of this service. The Society at present is serving over 4,000 annuitants, and is proud of its record of a century in which it has never failed to meet promptly every obligation to those who have intrusted their funds to its care. The Board of Managers has inaugurated a program for 1943 by which they hope to write agreements totaling \$1,000,000 for the year. As we go to press, \$519,159.89 has been written. The officers are grateful for the aid that these funds have given through the years to keep the Scriptures circulating among the people who need them. To write an annuity agreement with the American Bible Society has indeed proved itself to be the making of "A Gift That Lives."

THERE is no group of serious-minded American citizens who could not appropriately make a con-



tribution for the wider circulation of the Scriptures, upon which the world is leaning so heavily today. The ac-

companying picture was taken at the time of a formal presentation of a donation to the Society from the National United Ushers' Association of America. Secretary Hodges of the Society's Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States (right) is receiving the check.

UNIVERSAL Bible Sunday will be observed this year on December 12, some churches following the liturgical calendar celebrating it on December 5. The theme is "The Enduring Word." Pastors will receive packets of material with the annual poster about November 1. The observance will be supported by nation-wide broadcasts. Plan to observe Universal Bible Sunday in your church this year.

### To Our Subscribers and Correspondents

IF you live in a city that is now divided by the Post Office Department into unit numbers, please give us your unit number when you write. The Bible House address is now Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, N.Y.

### August Meeting of the Board

THE fourth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-eighth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, August 5, 1943, at 3:30 o'clock, President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Edwin E. Calverley.

The minutes of the third stated meeting of the year were approved.

The minutes of the Finance Committee were presented and approved, and its recommendations adopted.

Copies of the new 2-cent edition of the Book of Isaiah were presented.

Greetings from the Advisory Council of the Sociedades Biblicas Unidas (United Bible Societies) in Brazil were presented.

Copies of the new leaflet "The Supply Line of Faith" were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas 1, Texas.

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**New York City**—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St....New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.  
**Atlanta, Georgia**—85 Walton St. ....No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Mississippi.  
**Chicago, Illinois**—35 E. Wacker Drive.....Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.  
**Dallas, Texas**—1914 Main St. ....Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico.  
**San Francisco, California**—224 McAllister St. ....Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.

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House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone.  
**Upper Andes**—John Ritchie, Apartado 448.  
Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.  
**La Plata**—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Brazil**—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible  
House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12.  
Rio de Janeiro.  
**Bible Lands Agency, North**—Mr. F. Lyman  
MacCallum, Box 747, Beirut, Syria.  
**Bible Lands Agency, South**—Mr. H. Athanas-  
sian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim  
Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

**Philippines**—Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755.  
Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila.  
**Thailand (Siam)**—Rev. Robert O. Franklin  
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**China**—Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible  
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**Japan Bible Society**—Mr. T. Tanaka, General  
Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza,  
Tokyo, Japan.

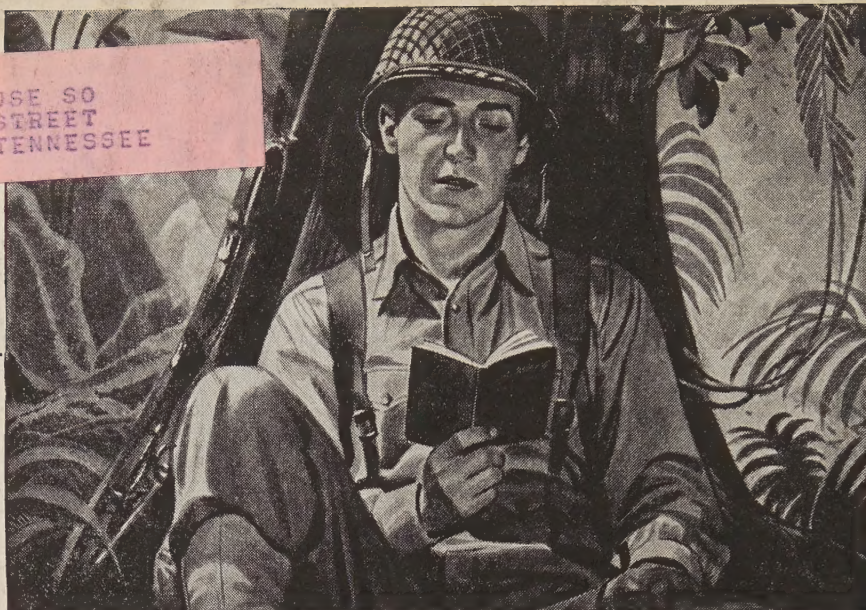
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**Connecticut**—Rev. S. W. Raymond, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5.  
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# 9,000 MILES APART



*...they found a way  
to be together!*

Here is a letter to his mother from a soldier in Guadalcanal:

"I have been reading my New Testament which the Chaplain gave me from the American Bible Society, and it has caused me to think very seriously about my soul and the future.

"I am writing you, Mom, to ask that you read with me a chapter from the New Testament each day . . . , and I will feel that somehow we are united . . . , and if I come back, the church and the Bible will mean more than ever in our lives."

## **A Challenge to Americans!**

Only the Bible can make this nation truly invincible! Only the Bible can give our soldiers and civil-

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